

Weather Forecast:

Fair Tonight and
Thursday

The Washington Times

NUMBER 8266.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 19, 1914.

PRICE ONE CENT.

HOME
EDITION

BRUSSELS ISOLATED; LONDON BELIEVES IT HAS FALLEN BEFORE GERMAN ASSAULT

U. S. WILL BUY SHIPS TO EASE CONGESTION OF FOREIGN TRADE

Government-Owned Steamers Will Ply Between Atlantic Ports to Aid Solution of Commerce Problem.

President Approves Proposal to Appropriate \$25,000,000 for Purchase and Operation of American Vessels.

Government-owned steamships, operated by a corporation controlled by the government, will ply between Atlantic ports of the United States and the war-torn countries of Europe.

This is the solution reached by President Wilson and his advisers today for the problem of relieving the congestion of American foreign trade caused by the European conflict.

A bill providing for the purchase of an adequate number of ships and the creation of the Government controlled corporation will be introduced at an early date. The sum of \$25,000,000 will probably be appropriated.

The President also gave his approval to a bill to be introduced soon providing for the insurance by the Government of war risks—that is, of cargoes going to Europe which private insurance agencies, because of the war, have refused to insure.

These steps, the first of which is regarded as a permanent means of building up the merchant marine of the United States, will be supplemented probably by a bill to be introduced by Senator Clark of Arkansas, chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Senator Simmons of North Carolina, chairman of the Finance Committee, and Senator Chandler of Maine, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce, and Chairman Alexander of the House Committee on Merchant Marine, and the Secretary of the Treasury.

Following the conference, the following statement was issued by J. B. Thompson, secretary to the President: "The conference was about the development and safeguarding of the merchant marine, and every aspect of the problem was gone over. It was recognized that the present emergency called for prompt action to relieve a situation which can be relieved if action is promptly taken. It was agreed that a bill should be introduced in Congress providing for the insurance of war risks by the Government."

Need Is Immediate. In addition to the agreement of the United States to the insurance bill, there was an extensive discussion of the best means of immediately providing ships to carry the goods now waiting for shipment. Several plans were proposed, and it was finally agreed that a bill should be drawn and introduced at an early date which should provide for the purchase of an adequate number of ships by the Government, and the operation of a corporation controlled by the Government, as in the case of the Panama Railroad Company, which now operates ships as well as the railroad itself, and which is controlled by the Government.

It was also stated how many ships would be purchased, it is understood to have been the sense of the conference to ask Congress for an appropriation of \$25,000,000. It is also understood that it is the purpose of the Government to purchase these ships, if possible, from the Hamburg-American line and the North German Lloyd Steamship companies, many of whose vessels, because of the German flag that they fly, have been driven from the seas by the British warships, and forced to remain in American ports.

Used Duplicate Key. Articles valued at \$50 were stolen from the home of Charles Matthews, 1309 Beverly terrace northwest, during the absence of members of the family yesterday. The thief used a duplicate key.

FRENCH CONTINUE TO ADVANCE INTO ALSACE-LORRAINE

Paris Announces Germans Are Falling Back to Strassburg for First Real Stand.

KAISER'S ARMIES DECIDE NOT TO DEFEND SAARBURG

Forces of the Tri-Color Pouring Through All Passes of the Vosges, Report Says.

PARIS, Aug. 19.—The French advance into Alsace-Lorraine continues. A brief bulletin, issued today, confirmed the report that the Germans are falling back upon Strassburg and that French armies are operating north from the Swiss frontier, having entered Alsace near Belfort; south from Nancy, and east through all of the passes of the Vosges mountains.

The general staff says the Germans have decided not to defend Saarburg, and will make their first real determined stand at Strassburg.

The German resistance is characterized as stubborn, but the official claims insist the German losses far outnumber the French and that hundreds of prisoners are being taken.

RUSSIAN TOWN WON, WORD FROM BERLIN

Invasion Is Believed to Mark Beginning of Campaign Against Warsaw.

LONDON, Aug. 19.—Berlin advises that the German government claims the occupation of Mlawka, in Russian Poland, just over the Prussian boundary and forty-six miles north-northeast of Plock.

This announcement is believed to indicate that a serious German advance toward Warsaw is being attempted.

CLAIMS 19 WARSHIPS SUNK BY ZEPPELINS

(From the Evening Edition of the New York Times, Aug. 18.—Continued.)

We have very favorable news from private letters concerning the Zeppelin airships. The question has often been asked: Where are the Zeppelins? The following information received in a private letter speaks for itself.

"Every night the Zeppelin airships go out to the North sea and when they return there is an English battleship destroyed. Nineteen English battleships have been destroyed so far. It is time for the British admiralty to break its ominous silence and to announce what the English fleet is doing."

Peace Prayer Offered By Chaplain of Senate

The chaplain of the Senate, the Rev. Dr. Prentiss, offered a prayer for peace in the Senate today.

He alluded to the "fearful consequences and widespread devastation that must follow the conflict across the seas" and asked for the speedy and permanent settlement of the troubles.

Austrians Compelled to Quit Vladimir Attack

ROME, Aug. 19.—The Trieste correspondent of the Corriere d'Italia telegraphs that the Austrians have been compelled to abandon an attack upon Vladimir, in the department of Volhynia. The correspondent also adds the report that a large number of Czech soldiers followed and refused to fight, as confirmed. Many of them were immediately shot.

HOUSEWIVES BAND TO CUT FOOD COST

Superintendent of Markets Tells Community Leaguers How to Save.

SUGGESTS RULES TO GOVERN THE BUYING

Middleman Necessary in Any Market Plan, Asserts Mr. Sherman.

To relieve real suffering already apparent in the District because of the high prices of foodstuffs and not to move against retailers is the characterization given the suggested formation of "community leagues" by Washington housewives by John H. Sherman, superintendent of weights, measures and markets, who addressed a group of housekeepers in the District Building today.

Superintendent Sherman said that three or four families may constitute a league, and under the new ruling that wholesalers cannot discriminate between leagues and retailers, a decrease in the price of food stuffs is assured.

Concerning the delivery of goods, Mr. Sherman said many farmers at the wholesale markets would deliver quantities of a bushel or more and the cost of delivery of smaller quantities would not be more than 25 cents.

The Haskell market and the fish market were recommended as the places to make purchases.

Grand Jury Active.

While Washington women were told how to organize "community leagues," or "consumers' leagues," the Federal grand jury of the District kept grinding away in its efforts to establish just where the blame for increased prices in the District would be placed by retailers, wholesalers, hotel buyers, individuals who visited the Central Market and others, have been subpoenaed and quizzed, and it is believed District Attorney Wilson is accumulating a wealth of evidence on the price situation in the District.

Reports from various parts of the country continue to pour in to the Department of Justice from special agents and district attorneys who are concentrating their efforts on investigations into the causes of the present high prices. The means will be discussed by Julian I. Pierce at a Socialist party meeting tonight at Eighth street and Pennsylvania avenue northwest.

Suggests Fish Diet.

M. E. Pennington, chief of the food research laboratory of the Department of Agriculture, suggests that fish be used as a substitute for meat, declaring that the supply of marine products in the United States is practically inexhaustible. Mr. Pennington said that fish is cheaper than meat, and is more healthful.

In addressing the housewives today, Superintendent Sherman said he has already received evidence of privation and suffering due to the recent increase in the prices of foodstuffs.

"In many families," he said, "the difference between the income and the amount that must be expended for living expenses is so small that a few cents means real hardship. The meeting was held in the board room of the District Building."

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS. Any farmer who has space assigned to him in this market, and who refuses to sell any person tendering the price for any article offered for sale by him, when ordered in usual wholesale quantities, shall immediately forfeit his right to occupy this space.

Three or four families of three or four members each, Superintendent Sherman said, may constitute a league.

(Continued on Page Two.)

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

SENATE.

Met at noon.

Secretary Bryan before Foreign Relations Committee on Nicaraguan treaty.

Clayton bill further considered.

Favorable report on peace treaty with Peru by Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Hitchcock introduces bill to prevent loans by persons in this country to the warring nations.

President appoints McReynolds Justice of the Supreme Court and Gregory Attorney General.

HOUSE.

Met at noon.

Resumed debate on Barnhart printing bill.

Bill reported to restore Capt. John M. Gilhies to active list of navy.

HOUSEWIVES IN FIGHT TO CUT FOOD COST



SUPERINTENDENT OF MARKETS JOHN H. SHERMAN Addressing Representatives of the Community League At Their First Tri-Weekly Meeting In the District Building This Morning.

PNEUMONIA FEARED BY POPE'S DOCTORS

Condition Much Worse; Bronchial Trouble Spreads, Is Announcement.

ROME, Aug. 19.—Pope Pius is threatened with pneumonia. This was the announcement made this afternoon by Drs. Anici and Marchiafava. They admit that his condition is much worse, and that the bronchial affection for which they have been treating his holiness, is spreading rapidly.

No attempt is made at the Vatican to conceal the alarm that is felt there. While his holiness is not in grave danger at present, the fact that it is admitted there are fears that pneumonia will set in, indicates that his condition is very much more serious than has heretofore been believed.

Prayers for Peace Urged by Vatican

LONDON, Aug. 19.—The text of the message issued from the Vatican by the Pope calling upon the entire world to pray for peace was received in London today. It directs that "especially the clergy make public supplication so that the merciful God may, as it were, be wearied with the prayers of his children and speedily remove the evil causes of war."

"At this moment, when nearly the whole of Europe is being dragged into the vortex of a most terrible war, with the present dangers and miseries and the consequences to follow, the very thought of which must strike everyone with grief and horror, we, whose care is the life and welfare of so many citizens and peoples, cannot but be deeply moved and our heart wrung with the bitterest sorrow."

"And, in the midst of this universal confusion and peril, we feel and know that both fatherly love and apostolic ministry demand of us that we should, with all earnestness, turn the thoughts of Christendom thither—'whence cometh help'—to Christ, the Prince of Peace and mediator between God and man."

"We charge, therefore, the Catholics of the whole world to approach the throne of grace and mercy, and more especially the clergy, whose duty furthermore it will be to make that direct appeal to the prayers of his children and speedily remove the evil causes of war, giving to them who rule to think the thoughts of peace and not of affliction."

Neutrality Reiterated By Turkey and Bulgaria

LONDON, Aug. 19.—The Bulgarian and Turkish representatives again today notified the foreign office that their nations were determined to maintain complete neutrality throughout the war. No mention was made of the report that Turkish troops were already in Bulgaria en route to the Greek frontier, or of the Greek ultimatum in this connection, but it is now considered certain that even if the Turkish troops actually had started such an expedition they have been recalled.

Today's War Summary

By JOHN EDWIN NEVIN.

BELGIUM—German infantry advance in force, is progressing with heavy fighting east of Brussels. Capture of Brussels by Germans reported in rumors but is denied by Belgian legation in London. German army of the Meuse and first army of the Moselle are now engaged and Belgians and allies admitted are hard pressed. Liege forts cut off, but reports that they have been blown up and abandoned by Belgians, are denied by Belgian war office.

ENGLAND—Admiralty admits activity is being manifested in North Sea, and it is believed Germans contemplate an attack on the British fleet with submarines and destroyers. British troops are now in action in Belgium.

FRANCE—French army in upper Alsace has occupied Saarburg, the Germans evacuating the garrison town without a fight. Battle expected near Strassburg against which strongly fortified position three French armies are moving.

GERMANY—The government claims German troops have occupied Mlawka, in Russian Poland. Kaiser negotiating with China to restore Shantung possessions to that republic thus checkmating Japan's war moves.

AUSTRIA—Reports received via Rome say Austria has been compelled to retire from Vladimir before a strong Russian offensive movement.

SERBIA—War office claims Austrian army defeated at Shalats, was routed and is now in flight.

RUSSIA—General staff announces that the invasion of the Austrian provinces of Bukovina and Galicia is in progress with "several divisions," probably 70,000 men engaged.

Italy—Germany said to be sending military and diplomatic representatives to Rome to urge that Italy now come to Germany's aid because of the Japanese ultimatum and war threats.

Austrian Wheat Steamer Reported to Be Captured. LONDON, Aug. 19.—The Austrian steamer Dinorah, wheat laden, is reported captured off the island of Guernsey by a French destroyer. The steamer's cargo of wheat, valued at 1,000,000, and a value, with cargo, of \$600,000,000.

LIEGE FORTS FALL, PERSISTENT RUMOR

No Official Confirmation Is Had, But Circumstantial Accounts Come Through.

Despite denials from official sources, the reports that the Liege forts have at last fallen, are persistent.

Circumstantial accounts of their being badly battered by the German siege artillery and at last blown up by the defenders are reaching here from several points on the Continent. This was known to have been the plan, as the officers in command had been instructed that the forts were not to be allowed to fall into German hands, and that when the time came for them to be abandoned they were to be demolished by high explosives already in place.

There is no official confirmation, however, of the report that this has taken place. The last word received here regarding the forts from Brussels quoted the Belgian general staff as saying: "At last accounts the Liege forts were still holding out. Communication is interrupted."

Hoke Smith Victorious In Early Vote Returns

Political Washington viewed with interest today the early returns from Georgia's turbulent Democratic primary campaign, which indicate that Senator Hoke Smith has been victorious over his old-time rival, former Gov. Joseph M. Brown, in the contest for the long term in the United States Senate.

These returns indicate that Gov. John M. Slaton is leading for the unexpected "short term" in the race with Congressman Hardwick.

Although interest centered in the Senatorial contests, the Democrats were also voting for a full State ticket, and the twelve House members, the primary nominations today being equivalent to election.

No serious disorders at the polls were reported today. Congressmen Edwards, Adamson, Bell, Walker, and Hughes, the only members of the delegation having opposition, were reported early today to be leading. Carl Vinson was said to be ahead in the Tenth district to succeed Congressman Hardwick.

U. S. Envoy Remains At His Post in Brussels

Although the royal family, cabinet, and foreign minister have fled from Brussels to Antwerp, the State Department was advised today that Brand Whitlock, the American minister, is remaining at Brussels. The Queen has transferred the palace in Brussels into a model hospital for sick and wounded.

GREAT BATTLE RAGING ALONG BELGIAN FRONT; ALLIES HARD PRESSED

Kaiser's Great Armies Attempt to Break Through Center of Belgian-French-British Line—Heavy Artillery Playing Part in Battle.

All communication with Brussels ceased early today. The last word from there reported that a general engagement between the Germans and the allied armies was in progress along the Belgian front, and that the roar of the guns could be distinctly heard in the city.

Vain attempts to get in touch with Brussels since then lead to the belief in Paris and London that the city has been captured by the Germans.

The French war office admits knowledge of these rumors, but states positively that they have not been confirmed, at the same time admitting that the Germans might have entered the Belgian capital.

There is no doubt that the first of the war's great battles has been in its second and hardest stage since day-break yesterday. Starting at that time it increased in its severity early today, according to Paris dispatches, until it now has assumed the proportions of a general battle covering the territory from Antwerp to Luxembourg.

ALLIES HARD PRESSED.

CAPTAIN DESCRIBES SINKING OF CRUISER

Fox Says Men on Amphion Behaved With Gallantry in Dire Emergency.

LONDON, Aug. 19.—The detailed report that Captain Fox, commander of the ill-fated cruiser Amphion, first British warship lost in the war, was made public today. It shows that the cruiser actually struck two mines and that the second one fired the Amphion's magazines. The report as made public by the official bureau of the Amphion, which was returning with the destroyer squadron, when suddenly the entire bridge was enveloped by a sheet of flame from a mine which had been detonated.

The concussion rendered Mr. Fox, who was on the bridge, unconscious. He was recovered 10 minutes after the explosion. All hands had been summoned to quarters and everything was in readiness to abandon ship should investigation show that this was necessary.

The destroyers were summoned alongside, and the transfer of the crew was in progress when the Amphion struck a second mine, which had been attached to the general chain. This mine exploded the forward magazine of the cruiser, completely demolishing her, and throwing debris on the rescuing destroyer, killing three men on it. The wreck of the Amphion sank within three minutes after the second explosion.

"The officers and crew behaved with the utmost gallantry. The men rushed to their places upon the second of the initial explosion, and the engine room forces remained on duty until the signal to abandon ship was sounded."

Son of Belgian Army Chief Arrested by Dutch

THE HAGUE, Aug. 19.—Lieutenant Desaler Demoranville, son of the commander-in-chief of the Belgian army, has been captured on the Dutch side of the frontier, disarmed and made a prisoner at Aikmar, the Dutch military academy. The Dutch border patrol also arrested 150 Germans who had crossed into Holland. All were disarmed and held at Aikmar.

May Slay Serbs.

ROME, Aug. 19.—Advices from Sarajevo state that the Austrian commanders have ordered that Serbian prisoners be carried in all military trains, and they are to be executed should the Serbians endeavor to wreck the trains.

It is believed that the combined armies of the Meuse and the first army of the Moselle are now endeavoring to force the center of the allied army, thus dividing it.

From information that Paris has allowed to escape its strict censorship today, it became evident that the allied army is being hard pressed at Waterloo and at Brussels.

In connection with the rumors about Brussels the French war office, in an official statement, points out that the Belgian defense plan centered around Antwerp. That is the Belgian base. It is tremendously fortified whereas Brussels is not.

The withdrawal of the Belgian seat of government to Antwerp, announced yesterday, was considered highly significant.

Interest in the situation in Belgium has distracted attention today from the French operations in Alsace-Lorraine. It is realized that the Kaiser is making everything on his offensive movement through Belgium.

The German infantry was reported as moving steadily forward, entrenching as it came, with its chief strength directed against the Belgian-French-British armies' center in an effort to divide the opposition.

All the London papers agree that it will be asking too much to expect the allied armies to keep the Germans out of Brussels. They point out that the German forces engaged total more than 400,000, and that, with reserves packed in the rear, the Kaiser has a total of close to 750,000 men available for this first offensive operation. But they insist that it will be impossible for the Germans to reach the Belgian-French boundary.

That the British troops probably are engaged in the present fighting is believed likely. The censor refuses to permit any word of their position to be sent. But Earl Kitchener's apparent interest in the reports of the Belgian fighting is considered highly significant.

Suffragist Leader Can't Sacrifice Wrist Watch

"No, I can't sacrifice my wrist watch," said Mrs. Antoinette Funk, at the headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, this morning when asked if she was going to drop into the "melting pot" the gold wrist watch which she was awarded yesterday as winner of the prize offered by a Chicago newspaper for the best suggestion for the observance of "suffrage day."

Since it was her suggestion of the melting pot idea that won the prize, it was thought by some of her friends that she might see fit to carry self-denial to extremes and let the watch be melted along with the hundreds of other gold and silver trinkets that have been contributed.